



ROCKET RANGE HAZARD AREA



The rocket launches at WFF Wallops Island are an attraction for both tourists and residents alike. Yet, these types of operations are inherently hazardous. As such, NASA develops and implements mission-specific safety plans to ensure the protection of both members of the public and their property for all of its launches. As part of the JLUS process, NASA re-validated the range hazard areas it provided to the County during the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update, adding the effect of the future orbital launch pad. As shown, the range hazard areas consists of concentric rings (arcs) centered on the two current and one future planned orbital launch pads. The smaller arc, at 10,000 feet, is established on the day of launch and must be cleared prior to launch. The second arc, at 20,000 feet, depicts an area that may be susceptible to lesser range hazards which are largely driven by atmospheric conditions on launch day. While the extent of a hazard area will be tailored to each mission (and consequently could be smaller or larger), the 10,000 and 20,000 feet arcs depict the expected extent of those required for current and future missions.